
Long-Term Care Planning Committee

September 11, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: David Guttchen, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Jennifer Glick, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Beth Leslie, Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA); Fran Messina, Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD); Donna Ortello, Department of Public Health (DPH); Amy Porter, Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS)

Others Present: Dawn Lambert, Project Director of Money Follows the Person, and Karri Filek, Eligibility Services Worker, Department of Social Services (DSS); Barbara Parks Wolf, OPM

Review and Approval of Minutes

David Guttchen called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

D. Guttchen requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2012 Planning Committee meeting. A motion was presented, seconded and passed unanimously by the Committee members.

Updates and Announcements

No updates or announcements were offered.

Long-Term Care Advisory Council Comments

Deborah Mignault of the Commission on Aging, sitting in for Julie Evans Starr, co-chair of the Long-Term Care Advisory Council and Executive Director of the Commission on Aging, provided an update on Advisory Council activities. The following was noted:

- The Advisory Committee is looking forward to continued collaboration on the 2013 Long-Term Services and Supports Plan.
- Julie Evans Starr met with Commissioner Bremby in May to discuss delays in the Medicaid eligibility determination process. The meeting was productive and the Commissioner was receptive to suggestions. D. Guttchen noted that to speed eligibility determinations, the department was focusing on the first two years of the five year look back period with the right to go back the full five years and on looking at financial transactions of \$5,000 or more.

- During the 2012 legislative session a special act was passed establishing the Aging in Place Task Force. The Task Force has a broad charge, including home and community based services, transportation and zoning issues. Each meeting will focus on several of the issues in the Task Force charge. The second meeting of this group is on Thursday, September 13th and the final report is due to the General Assembly on January 1, 2013. D. Guttchen noted that both Julie Evans Starr and he were added to the Task Force to avoid duplication of Long-Term Care Planning Committee and Advisory Council efforts.

2013 Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Plan

D. Guttchen reminded the group that the 2013 LTSS Plan is due to the General Assembly on January 1, 2013. The Planning Committee has agreed to keep the two rebalancing goals (balance the ratio of home and community-based and institutional care and balance the ratio of public and private resources). The focus to date has been the development of the recommendations by the Planning Committee, Advisory Council and the public.

Barbara Parks Wolf reviewed the public input process, explaining that the recommendation document before the Planning Committee reflects the public input that had been provided this summer (see handout). All changes reflecting public input are tracked in the document and the list of contributors is on the last page.

Fran Messina requested that the reference to emergency housing in the Long-Term Recommendation section on page three be defined more clearly to specify whether this means respite, disaster preparedness or something else. Beth Leslie offered to provide information on emergency planning as a resource for the Plan.

D. Guttchen asked the Advisory Council to ensure that this draft has been broadly distributed and that any targeted comments be sent to B. Wolf by Friday, September 21st.

B. Wolf reviewed the timeline and discussed next steps (see handout). A survey has been sent to State agency members to gather information on State long-term services and support programs and expenditures. The results of the survey will appear in the Plan appendices. A draft of the complete Plan will be sent out for review and comment for final discussion and approval at the December meeting.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) Rebalancing Demonstration Status Update

Dawn Lambert, Project Director of Money Follows the Person, together with Karri Filek, Medicaid Eligibility Worker, provided the group with a status report on the MFP and Rightsizing Initiative (see handout).

The presentation included a status update of the long-term services and support system; policy initiatives driving change; projections of future demand; and the importance of leadership. D. Lambert noted that the demonstration was aligned with the LTSS Plan priorities and that it was important that we are all strategically aligned with a common voice. She went on to say that principles are guiding policy and that the principle of person centered decision making was being integrated into all of the Department of Social Services' (DSS) LTSS and health care initiatives. This includes empowering people with information so that they may make their own decisions, assuring choice, and assuring the dignity of risk.

K. Filek explained what is done on a daily basis that the program did not do last year regarding eligibility determination: MFP and DSS program eligibility, granting and maintaining MFP benefits during the first 365 days, and long-term services and supports eligibility. A disconnect was identified regarding Medicaid eligibility in the pre-transfer period and assuring Medicaid eligibility for Medicaid waiver eligibility.

The following points were made during the discussion:

- Connecticut has the largest absolute number of closed cases (people who dropped out of the program) in the U.S. Julie Robison at the UConn Center on Aging is conducting a study to evaluate this situation.
- There has been a high degree of change in the long-term services and supports system in the last year and it is expected that this will accelerate in the future.
- Despite the fact that eight nursing facilities have closed in the last year, the occupancy rate in the remaining homes is dropping.
- The importance of working with staff, particularly aides, in nursing facilities that are about to close to help in finding long-term care jobs in community settings.

Other Business

D. Guttchen reminded the group to send targeted comments on the current draft of recommendations to B. Wolf by Friday, September 21st.

Meeting Schedule for 2012

Tues., December 11th -- 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM -- Room 1A - LOB

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.